

certain brains in such a way as to produce cerebral disorders which may be likened to those produced by poisons upon the stomach and intestines. Even superficial knowledge, such as is imparted in primary schools or absorbed from a newspaper, he declares, is sufficient to cause minor crevices in the gray matter which are responsible for many yet uncatalogued forms of lunacy. Dr. Solners concludes that this world is getting too complicated and that its complication is made too constantly present to every mind by conversations, books, newspapers and spectacles of the busy modern life.

IN THIS SAME PAPER DR. SOLNERS PRESENTED a list of the abnormal happenings of the preceding week, which happenings he claimed demonstrated his theories. The doctor cited these cases: An American woman, aged forty, suddenly became insane while looking at the engines of the ocean liner Lorraine. A farmer in the course of an innocent controversy mowed off both the legs of his opponent with a scythe. A school teacher, fascinated by revolving knives, jumped into a huge clay mixer in a porcelain factory and was chopped up like sausage meat. A miller, suddenly seized with an insane frenzy while watching the swift-moving flour rollers, precipitated into the machine his own five-year-old child, whose legs were ground before the belt slipped owing to the choking resistance. Two Russians, man and wife, were riding in an automobile down a steep mountain along a precipice, when the woman exclaimed: "What if we should swerve!" Her companion, before he could resist the impulse, obeyed some insane suggestion provoked by the remark and whirled the machine abruptly into an abyss, where he was killed and his wife was severely injured.

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD'S CORRESPONDENT Dr. Solners mentioned many other instances, from which he argued that the human race now is composed mostly of latent lunatics, whose individual lunacy may remain inoffensive until death or may break loose suddenly under a combination of conditions not yet scientifically determined.

SINCE THE FALL OF THE CAPANILE THE public has been treated to many descriptions concerning the foundation of Venice. The London correspondent to the New York Times made the statement that "the Capanile, like all Venetian buildings, was built on wooden poles driven into the mud." A reader of the New York Times writes to that paper an interesting correction of its London correspondent's statement. According to this reader Venice is not built in the mud; it is built on as solid foundations as our own city; New York is built on islands; so is Venice; all her houses, palaces, and churches are built on 117 islands, three of which are large, (not, however, as large as Manhattan); the sea encircles these islands, forming a network of lagoons, 150 in number, in which the tide rises and falls daily. The islands are connected by 378 bridges. The whole group forming the city proper, about seven miles in circumference, is entirely surrounded by the sea. A railway bridge two and a half miles in length connects it with the mainland on the north side. Many of the houses rise sheer from the water's edge, notably those on the Grand Canal, but many are set back, leaving broad quays in front, such as the Niva degli Schiavini, and the Canareygio; these have water gates at the back. Every house in Venice has a water gate. There are also many squares, among them the Square (Piazza) of St. Mark and the Square of St. Moses. A small square is called a campo.

SINCE THE AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN which Charles L. Fair and wife lost their lives the Paris papers are united in a demand for treatment of what one of them calls "speed madness." The Journal des Debats says: "The first sentiment is one of sympathy and compassion for those who are at once the authors and victims of automobile accidents, but this does not prevent the public, on second thoughts, from insisting upon more drastic regulations for automobiles. Scarcely a day passes without an automobile accident, due to the temerity or inexperience of the amateur chaffeurs. At first it was possible to believe that these accidents were due to a few dare devils who attached as little importance to their own lives as to those of other people, but they have increased in such proportions that one is forced to the belief that the most rational man has difficulty in defending himself from a species of vertigo when he possesses a machine of colossal horsepower and can burn space merely by letting it go." It is probable that the result will be reg-

ulation of the speed of automobiles in all parts of the world.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BECOME quite familiar with Fair will contests. It seems that they are to be treated to another contest of this character, resulting from the death of young Fair and his wife in the automobile accident in Paris. Mrs. Fair came from a poor family in New Jersey. Fair's relatives are all millionaires. Young Fair's estate is estimated to be worth \$10,000,000. The question rests upon whether Fair or Mrs. Fair died first. If young Fair was the first to die Mrs. Fair's relatives in New Jersey will obtain at least the widow's share in the whole estate, but if Mrs. Fair died first the New Jersey family will receive only a certain share of the property that was in Mrs. Fair's name. The prospect is for a long struggle in the courts. It will be difficult for either side to establish its claim from the simple fact that the witnesses to the accident are unable to provide the desired information; death was instantaneous with both.

THE DIFFICULTY WHICH WILL CONFRONT the lawyers in the Fair case was illustrated in another famous proceeding. Wallace C. Andrews, a New York millionaire, together with his wife and Mrs. St. John, his wife's sister, died in a fire in April, 1899. Mr. Andrews had made a will by the terms of which one million dollars was set aside for the purpose of founding a college for girls at Willoughby, O. Other bequests were made, including one to Mrs. St. John. Norman C. Andrews, a brother of the dead millionaire, was not mentioned in the will. This brother instituted proceedings to test the validity of the document. He insisted that if Mrs. St. John did not survive Mr. Andrews the legacy to Mrs. St. John would abate and as to that sum Andrews would have died intestate. In that event the brother claimed that he would be entitled to a share of the money. Unless Mr. Andrews died before his wife did it was claimed that his bequest for charitable purposes was valid only to the extent of one-half of the estate, the excess of this amount would then go to the heirs, of whom the brother was one. This question is yet in the courts and the point at issue has not yet been determined.

PRESIDENT JOHN TYLER'S DAUGHTER has expressed the hope that in the improvements now being made at the White house, the old chandeliers and candelabra will be spared. Mrs. Semple says: "They were selected by President Monroe. He was minister to France before he was elected president, and both he and his wife had excellent taste, as all of the furnishings which they selected show. The chandeliers I speak of have been made to suit old lamps, candles, gas and electricity. In my father's time candles were used, and it took twenty-four boxes for one evening only. It was the most becoming illumination in the world, and the whole expense of it, which was considerable, as you may imagine, came out of the president's salary, which was only half at that period what it is today."

ACHILLICOTHE, MO., NEWSPAPER RELATES an interesting story of an old man who is spending his last years on the farm of J. H. Felt, near that place. The old man, who is known as "Colonel Charley," is, it says, a nephew of Lafayette, and fought seven years in the French army, went through all the Mexican war with Uncle Sam's army and through the civil war on the union side. He is 80 years old, and has heart failure. Like the last of "The Three Guardsmen" he lives in his memory and can tell many stories of great interest about his exciting experiences. His tales of the French revolution are the most interesting and his personal knowledge of the great and only Napoleon is extensive.

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL, COMMENTING on this tale, says these stories are truly remarkable especially so when one considers that the French revolution occurred about thirty years before "Colonel Charley" was born; that the battle of Waterloo was fought seven years before he was born, and that "the great and only Napoleon" died on St. Helena when he was but 4 years old. His "personal knowledge" of these things must be very accurate and his stories as interesting as veracious. The old fellow may suffer from heart failure, but there is nothing the matter with his imagination.

ABROWN UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE HAVING charge of the John Carter Brown library of Americana, recently had under consideration the proposition to purchase a certain map at the immense cost of \$50,000. The offer was not made, however, because those having the map in charge would not guarantee that the sum named would

be accepted. It is said that this map would sell for much more than \$50,000 in London. The Kansas City Journal gives this description: It is the first map ever published that contained the word America as a name applied to our Western continent, and it was issued in Germany in 1507 by a geographer named Waldseemuller. For a century or more it had been lost, but about two years ago it was found in an old folio in the private library of Prince Waldenburg of Wurtemberg. The prince's agent approached the Brown university authorities with reference to the map, but he is believed to be seeking offers on which to base negotiations for a much higher price from the German government.

IN THE BURIAL REGISTER OF WHITE-chapel under the year 1649 is the following entry: "June 21st, Richard Brandon, a man out of Rosemary Lane. This Brandon is held to be the man who beheaded Charles the First." It is said by a writer in Harper's Magazine for September that a less distinguished candidate for the infamy was one William Howlett, actually condemned to death after the Restoration for a part he never played, and only saved from the gallows by the urgent efforts of a few citizens who swore that Brandon did the deed. Brandon was not available for retribution. He had died in his bed, six months after Charles was beheaded, and had been hurried ignominiously into his grave in Whitechapel churchyard. As public executioner of London, he could hardly escape his destiny; but it is said that remorse and horror shortened his days. In his supposed "confession," a tract widely circulated at the time, he claims that he was "fetched out of bed by a troop of horse," and carried against his will to the scaffold. Also that he was paid £30, all in half-crowns, for the work, and had "an orange stuck full of cloves, and a handkerchief out of the king's pocket." The orange he sold for 10 shillings in Rosemary Lane.

DR. G. STANLEY HALL, A NOTED EDUCATOR, declares that "slang aids the boy or girl of fourteen to nineteen years to acquire fluency." It is difficult to follow Dr. Hall's argument. Slang always runs in set phrases and these phrases are repeated with parrot-like frequency. Content with a few slang expressions the boy or girl does not seek for other phrases and the result is a limited vocabulary instead of a larger one. Slang phrases are often expressive and more easily understood than more grammatical phrases, but more often they are silly and impertinent. An exchange commenting on Dr. Hall's view remarks that slang is not respectable, and offers as proof of the statement the fact that when slang becomes respectable it is no longer slang.

THE WORKINGS OF THE HUMAN MIND are wonderful, and despite the advance in psychic research remain a deep mystery. The evidence of this is found in a recent railroad wreck in Iowa. With signals set against him, without orders and in the face of the fact that the station agent told him that another train was coming toward him on the "block," the conductor of a construction train took his train out. A collision occurred in which a dozen men lost their lives. The erring conductor is expected to die, but although conscious he cannot offer any explanation of his conduct. He knew that he should not proceed without orders, he knew that the signals told him to remain on the siding until the other train had passed him, and he knew he should have heeded the warnings of the station agent, yet he took the train out. Perhaps the Society for the Promotion of Psychical Research may be able to offer an explanation of the conductor's actions.

EVER SINCE BRIGHAM YOUNG LED HIS people into Utah and effected a settlement the Great Salt Lake has been a great resort for tourists. Grave fears are entertained now that the lake is doomed. It has no outlet and depends for its water supply upon the mountain snows. Irrigation has become extensive in the Utah valleys and the snows of the Wasatch mountains are being diverted from the lake to the ditches. A few years ago a mammoth pavilion was built on the beach eighteen miles from Salt Lake City, and the bathing rooms were built out over the water. Three years ago the water under the pavilion was four feet deep; today it is barely six inches deep. Bathers must be content now with paddling around in a depth of one foot or eighteen inches. Diversion of the mountain snow water and evaporation threaten this great inland sea with extinction unless something is done to renew the supply, and there is talk of artesian wells for this purpose. The lake is very shallow and a fall of two or three feet more will bring it down to a mere pond in size.